

## ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

**BIRDS OF THE WORLD: THEIR LIFE AND HABITS.** By Paul Barruel. Oxford University Press, 1955:  $8\frac{3}{4} \times 11$  in., 204 pp., 16 col. pls. [included in pagination], and many photographs and drawings. \$12.50.

This splendidly illustrated volume has been translated from the French edition by the well-known English ornithologist, Phyllis Barclay-Smith. In spite of its title, the book is by no means a "Birds of the World" in the sense of Knowlton or Makatsch, for example. Indeed the prospective reader would have been more correctly informed if the publishers had retained the title of the French edition, "The Life and Habits of Birds."

The text is interestingly written and amazingly accurate, considering its world-wide scope; one regrets that there are only about 75 pages of it. Doubtless the several small misprints will be eliminated from the next edition.

Four of the sixteen color plates are from photographs; the rest are from paintings by the talented author of the book. While bold and almost diagrammatic in treatment, the paintings are very effective and add much to the book's attractiveness; three that appeared in the French edition have been replaced by others which, if rather less artistic, do certainly convey much more ornithological information. Unfortunately the publishers have grouped all of the legends for the color plates in the back of the book, where only the more persistent and industrious reader will find them.

The photographic illustrations, contributed by some of the most distinguished photographers of England, the Continent, and America, are not only superb photographs and well reproduced but each illustrates a point the author has made in his account of the biology of birds. The value of the photographs would be increased if they were accompanied by data and if they were listed for easier reference.

Only about half of the species mentioned in the color-plate legends are identified by scientific name. Even the index contains no scientific equivalents, though such vernacular names as "Gray Jumper" and "Desert Trumpeter Bullfinch" will overtax the resources of most readers.

This very interesting and attractive volume can be recommended wholeheartedly to layman and ornithologist alike.—**JOSSELYN VAN TYNE.**

**FINDING BIRDS IN MEXICO.** By Ernest Preston Edwards. Amherst Publishing Co., Amherst, Va., 1955:  $6 \times 8\frac{3}{4}$  in., xix + 101 pp., 7 sketch-maps and 7 black-and-white plates (2 by Frederick K. Hilton, 5 by the author). Obtainable from E. P. Edwards and Co., Box 611, Amherst, Va. \$1.90.

No bird student contemplating a trip to México should be without this practical, paper-bound guide, which affords both the novice and the initiated a goodly amount of useful information.

The introduction contains numerous suggestions of a general character, notes on climate, vegetation and topography, and a sketch-map showing México divided into six rather distinct regions: highlands, Atlantic lowlands, Pacific lowlands, Chiapas, Yucatán peninsula, and Baja California.

Each region has been given its own chapter which uniformly includes the following: 1.) a map showing the extent of paved highways and the location of selected bird-finding localities along them; 2.) a general definition of the region with a brief indication